

# Flight Jacket

Vol. 3, No. 21

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

June 1, 2001

## Miramar's new squadron shows Corps' efforts to modernize aviation

By Sgt. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The 3d Marine Aircraft Wing received an addition to its operational power with the introduction of a new detachment, the Vertical Take-off Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Fleet Introduction Team. The VTUAV FIT was formally announced during a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently, at the Marine Corps Air Control Group 38 building here.

Miramar was chosen for the location because of its proximity to the Rancho Bernardo-based manufacturer and because all the support assets the new detachment requires are here.

The new detachment is part of a Navy-Marine Corps team designed to coordinate the development, construction and testing of the Fire Scout aircraft. Servicemembers assigned to this detachment will be key in the developmental stage of the aircraft, which involves flying the aircraft and testing that it is operating to designed specifications.

The Fire Scout aircraft is the second type of unmanned aircraft the Corps has in its arsenal. The first is a fixed-wing version accurately named the Pioneer. However, it has several limitations including inability to fly in high winds or rain and needs a runway of at least 2,000 feet, said Staff Sgt. John F. Parks, VTUAV FIT aerial vehicle operator and Blytheville, Ark., native.

The Fire Scout is an all-weather, rotary-wing aircraft. This aircraft does not require a long runway, which makes it more portable and better suited to take off and land on a



The Fire Scout, a rotary-wing unmanned aircraft, will be flown and developed by the new VTUAV FIT. The Navy-Marine Corps team was recently established here as part of MACG-38. Photo courtesy of Northrop-Grumman

ship unlike the Pioneer. The aircraft can fly an approximate maximum speed of 50 mph and has a total flying time of six hours.

The aircraft has five main operational functions: assessing battle damage, performing reconnaissance and surveillance, serving as a communication relay, finding targets and designating targets.

The Fire Scout is operated by remote control. A two-person team is located inside a Tactical Man Battle Station that is attached to the back of a High-Mobility, Multi-Purpose, Wheeled Vehicle. One person is the aerial vehicle operator who flies the aircraft

with controls that reside in the simulated cockpit. The other Marine or Sailor is the mission payload operator who controls the surveillance camera attached to the front of the aircraft.

Aside from the new contribution to aviation, this aircraft has also initiated new methods in development. Marines have been involved in every step of this project to ensure the Marine Corps' needs are specifically considered while it is being built.

Typically, when implementing new technology Marines become involved with the developmental stage after it has been built.

Not until then can the Marine Corps apply its desires to the new product. "By becoming involved early in the process it is better for both parties by allowing the manufacturer to interact with the fleet user and the Marine Corps to ensure they will have a system very beneficial to them," said Parks.

With the addition of the Fire Scout, the Marine Corps moves further into the 21st century and continues to improve upon its aviation strength. Such technology will continue as Marines see the testing of the Osprey, Fire Scout and Joint-Strike Fighter, which are all intended to modernize the fleet.

## Drug use has impact on higher learning

By Capt. Jerry A. Stevenson

Joint Law Center, MCAS Miramar

Young Marines who feel the need to use illegal drugs while on active duty now have new consequences to look forward to. Former Marines, who have disgraced the Corps by using illegal drugs during their tour in uniform, are facing an unforeseen obstacle. The Department of Education has recently decided to enforce a provision of the law that suspends eligibility for Federal Student Aid for students who have been convicted of a drug offense.



The Department of Education has recently decided to enforce a provision of the law that suspends eligibility for Federal Student Aid for students who have been convicted of a drug offense. Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

The ramifications of a drug conviction have increased dramatically. Prior to enforcement of the 1998 amendment a discharged Marine could receive education assistance under various federal programs. Even with a bad conduct discharge a Marine could receive some benefits.

Federal education benefits can be used for many courses of study. Benefits such as the Stafford Loan and Pell Grant programs have been used by many separated Marines to obtain certifications in computer technology, such as Microsoft, CISCO, and Novell. They have also used them to be certified in automotive repair, aviation maintenance, and other technical degrees. These degrees and certifications have led to well-paying jobs. Marines have also used Department of Education programs to pay for their entire associate or bachelor's degree.

For example, a former enlisted Marine was able to use Veterans Affairs benefits and Department of Education programs to pay for his Bachelor's and Law degrees. Without the DOE assistance programs he would not have been able to achieve this goal. The Department of Education programs provided him with more than \$120,000 in support of his goal.

Whatever your goal is when you leave the active-duty ranks, an education will make that goal more attainable. Without the assistance of federal aid it will make it more difficult to reach those goals. When deciding whether or not to take that pill to enhance your "good time," you must ask yourself – is this buzz worth \$120,000?

## MCCS claims June as Miramar's 'Disability Awareness Month'

By Diana Melcher

MCCS, MCAS Miramar

June is "Disability Awareness Month" aboard the air station and the Exceptional Family Member Program is teaming up with the Station Library to present a variety of displays from San Diego organizations that are dedicated to the support of educational, medical, or emotional needs.

Monday, each organization will set up a display in the library, located in Building 5305. The displays will remain there until June 29 and will offer a variety of informational literature and references for those interested in learning more about caring for people with disabilities, whether they are children, spouses or parents. The presentation will conclude with a question-and-answer session on June 29 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Representatives from each organization will be on hand to discuss individual concerns, and detail the services they offer. The Exceptional Family Member Program will also dedicate a collection of approximately 200 texts to the library, which focus on disabilities.

The library will use these texts to develop a section spe-

See **Disability**, page 11



# ForeRunners wrap up Pacific Provider '21

By Sgt. Troy M. Ruby

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Following a month long deployment aboard the SS Curtiss, Marines with Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron 16 are either en route to their home station or they are have already arrived.

The exercise, Pacific Provider '21, gave them much-needed experience conducting business aboard the aviation logistical support ship, according to Lt. Col. Gary D. Wiest, MALS 16 commanding officer.

"For the young Marines, they are now confident that they can deploy with their work center," said Wiest. "It's important to have that confidence because a MALS

doesn't deploy very often, so preparation and confidence is a necessity."

The individual Marines were involved in all aspects of the deployment of their work center including the packing, shipping, loading it aboard the T-AVB, connecting it to the power source, setting it up and working in it.

Throughout the float aboard the Curtiss, MALS conducted maintenance and made repairs to aviation line items, such as helicopter rotor blades, floatation devices and radios that would normally be fixed aboard the air station.

The maintenance goals for Pacific Provider were met and exceeded, according to Wiest. They planned on bringing 1,000 items

aboard the ship and repair at least 800 of them. In actuality, however, they inducted 1,400 items and repaired nearly 1,000. A major feat, said Wiest, because with these production numbers, Marine Aircraft Group 16's aviation element was not negatively effected by the deployment of the MALS.

"I think the reason for the success of our productivity and the limited impact on the group was both because of the efforts of the Marines and the great air support supplied by MAG 16 and MAG 39," said Wiest.

The air support was available during the entire exercise with more than 34 flights to and from the ship loaded with more than

See **Provider**, page 11

## Lt. Col. Parker takes command of Raiders

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lieutenant Colonel Steven W. Busby relinquished command of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 to Lt. Col. Carl T. Parker today, in a change-of-command ceremony at Hangar 0.

Busby, who is transferring to the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C., said he is proud of the Raiders.

"The last two years have simply been magical watching the Marines and Sailors of VMGR-352 accomplish mission after mission," he said.

Parker graduated from the Naval Academy in 1982, and after completing The Basic School, he was ordered to flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. During that time he was transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he flew the T-28B and T-44A. After being designated a Naval aviator in 1984, he was ordered to the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at MCAS El Toro, where he was assigned as the G-3 assistant aircrew officer while waiting for initial training in the KC-130. Parker joined VMGR-352 in February 1985 as the adjutant and postal officer. In November 1986 he began serving as the intelligence officer, until he transferred to Okinawa, Japan, in August 1987.



**Lt. Col.  
Steven W. Busby**



**Lt. Col.  
Carl T. Parker**

After reaching MCAS Futenma, Parker served with VMGR-152 as the intelligence officer as well as the flight operations duty officer. One year later he returned to the Raiders and was assigned to the KC-130 simulator office. He served as the training syllabus coordinator, simulator instructor and quality control liaison for ongoing simulator upgrades.

In August 1990, Parker transferred again, this time to Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Training Squadron 253 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. While there he was not only a flight instructor, but also served as the director of safety and standardization. In August 1993 he was ordered to the hangar next door, to VMGR-252 to serve as the operations officer and then as the aircraft maintenance officer.

During July 1995 he reported to Command and Staff College at the Marine Corps University, Marine Corps Base Quantico,

Va., where he earned a master's degree in military studies. After his graduation in June 1996, he attended the Armed Forces Staff College at Norfolk, Va., before being ordered to joint duty with U.S. Southern Command in the Republic of Panama. At SOUTHCOM he served under the director of plans, policy and strategy, and was assigned duties as a deliberate plans officer. After U.S. military bases and facilities were reverted back to the government of Panama, Parker moved with the command to their new headquarters in Miami. He remained there until August 1999.

Parker then returned to the 2d MAW where he was assigned as the Wing's director of safety and standardization. He then moved here in August 2001, where he was assigned as an exercise planner for the Wing Operations Directorate.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

"VMGR-352 is a terrific unit with an enviable reputation for getting the job done right," said Parker. "I am both delighted and honored to be joining a winning team."

He is married to the former Lina Marcela Bell of Panama City, Republic of Panama. They have three children, Celina, Carlina and Jilian.

## Flight Jacket



**Maj. Gen.  
Charles F.  
Bolden Jr.**  
*Commanding  
General  
3d Marine Aircraft Wing*

**Maj. Gen.  
William G.  
Bowdon**  
*Commander  
Marine Corps Air Bases  
Western Area*

**Maj. T.V. Johnson**  
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**Capt. Rebecca Goodrich-Hinton**  
*Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office*

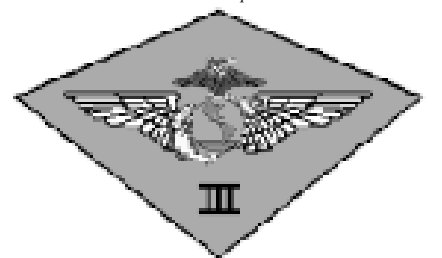
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### Just a little run

**Colonel Paul P. McNamara, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., 3d MAW commanding general, and Sgt. Maj. Donald R. Franklin, 3d MAW sergeant major, lead more than 4,300 Marines and Sailors from 3d MAW and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron on a run along the flight line May 24. "It was really impressive to look back at every turn and see the Marines and Sailors running behind and calling cadences," said Maj. Gen. Bolden. "It was truly inspiring and motivating." The run kicked off the 101 Days of Summer, a critical time of year when the most accidents happen to military personnel. Following the run, Maj. Gen. Bolden spoke to Marines at the Wing's headquarters about Memorial Day safety and how important it is to watch out for each other.**

*Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*



# President Bush says new military needs innovators

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – American military must draw on new technologies and strategies in the 21st Century, but those forces will only be used in accordance with bedrock American values, said President Bush during commencement exercises at the Naval Academy May 25.

“We must build forces based upon the revolutionary advances in the technology of war that will allow us to keep the peace by redefining war on our terms,” Bush said in Annapolis, Md. Bush also told the new ensigns and Marine second lieutenants that he is committed to rewarding visionary thinking.

Bush said he is committed to building a future force that is defined less by size and more by mobility and swiftness. That force will be easier to deploy and sustain and relies heavily on U.S.

advantages in stealth, precision weaponry and information technologies.

He forecasts that the president in 2016 may call upon Aegis destroyers to defend continents from ballistic missile attacks or modified Trident submarines carrying hundreds of next generation smart cruise missiles or agile Marine task forces ready to deploy with far greater speed, operational reach and precision.

“Building tomorrow’s force will not be easy,” he said. “Changing the direction of our military is like changing the direction of a mighty ship. All the more reason for research and development and all the more reason to get started right away.”

But new technologies need new ideas and, more importantly, a willingness to experiment. “We cannot transform our military using old weapons and old plans,” he said. “Nor can we do it with an old mindset that

frustrates the creativity and entrepreneurship that a 21st Century military will need.”

Bush said creativity and imaginative thinking are America’s great competitive advantages. “Today, I call upon you to seize and to join this tradition of creativity and innovation,” he said to the graduating midshipmen. “Our national and military leaders owe you a culture that supports innovation and a system that rewards it.”

He said officers in a 21st Century U.S. military must think “big thoughts” and examine new approaches to problems. “If you pick up this mantle some of your ideas may fail, but we need to give you this freedom and we will,” Bush said. “It is from your failures that we will learn and acquire the knowledge that will make successful innovation possible.”

“As president I am committed to fostering a military culture where intelligent risk-taking and forward thinking are rewarded, not dreaded,” he continued. “And I’m committed to ensuring that visionary leaders that take risks are recognized and promoted.”

But using the military rests on American values. Bush said the academy experience has prepared these new officers to call on these values in times of crisis. “You leave here ... knowing a great truth that some in life never discover: that values are important,” he said. “You understand that life cannot be lived by casual commitments and shallow creeds. You understand that no one can be neutral between right and wrong, tyranny and freedom, cynicism and honor. And you know that sometimes the greatest victories are won on the private battlefields of conscience.

“Over time your weapons and methods will change, but your values will not. And because of this you contribute, not only to the military might of our country, but to its meaning and conscience and soul.”

**“Our national and military leaders owe you a culture that supports innovation and a system that rewards it.”**

George W. Bush,  
commander in chief

# Singles Program Needs Support

By Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger

MARFORPAC

One of today’s most important programs for our single Marines and Sailors is the Single Marine & Sailor Program. It’s an outstanding program that offers numerous activities for our single Marines and Sailors, E-5 and below, within our commands.

The program is sponsored by Marine Corps Community Services. It is designed to offer our single personnel a myriad of alcohol free, healthy and entertaining choices during liberty call, and at an affordable price. My hat is off to MCCS for providing such a worthwhile program for our singles.

However, as I visit our many bases and stations I’m concerned that there are not more of our single Marines and Sailors partaking in the program. And we all know the old saying, “If you don’t use it, you’ll lose it,” does apply.

Part of the reason for a lack of participation by our singles is not totally because of their lack of desire.

I’ve spoken to many leaders throughout our area of responsibility about their respective SM&SP. They all are quick to assure me that they have an active SM&SP in place.

A problem I find though is that our commands are not really encouraging their singles to participate.

Some of the activities such as golf, for example, might require our singles to be given a little time off from work. Too often these lance corporals and below are denied time off from work and told by their SNCOs and officers that the command can’t afford to have them gone.

This is very interesting since I know those very SNCOs and officers won’t think twice about taking a half-day from work to be in a command golf tournament. I guess this means that in those commands it’s the lower enlisted that really run things.

Granted, most of SM&SP activities are during off-duty time, but my example clearly demonstrates a lack of commitment and concern by our leaders toward our singles. This mindset needs to change immediately.

All of we leaders constantly tell our people to be safe over the weekend and to

stay out of trouble, but don’t inquire as to what they have “planned.” We should be encouraging them to get involved in this program’s activities.

There’s another concern I have about this great program. It’s the actual support, or possible lack there of, from MCCS itself. I know that MCCS is very eager to fully support its activities that bring in a strong profit, but I’ve observed, over the years, that when some MCCS activities do not make a profit, then they’re either dropped entirely or made a low priority.

I do understand basic business (make a profit or go out of business), but I would hope that MCCS sees how very important this program is for our singles. It certainly isn’t my place to “preach” to MCCS about how much monetary support this program should be receiving, but I would ask them to contribute an appropriate percentage of funds proportionate to the percentage of our single Marines and Sailors. To do so would make the program’s activities more affordable and attractive to them.

Every command I visit, leadership is quick to tell me how great the SM&SP is. They tell me the program has a definite, positive effect on the morale of their singles. That said, I find virtually no command senior leadership (except maybe the base/station sergeant major) attend the programs’ scheduled meetings.

Too many leaders talk the talk, but don’t walk the walk of supporting this program. Each command has a SM&SP coordinator and they need reliable feedback from senior leadership to make their program the best it can be.

Leadership could actually have a win-win outcome by getting more involved and supportive of this program. Doing so, leadership just might help cut down the number of their Marines and Sailors making police and medical blotters, which in turn would make less headaches for them. Most importantly, it is looking after our Marines’ and Sailors’ welfare. And that’s what leadership is supposed to do.

To all of you Marine and Sailor single E-5s and below, remember that old saying I mentioned earlier, “If you don’t. ...

## 2001 Marine Corps Marathon Lottery

Several Marine Corps Marathon Representatives will be at the Miramar Exchange Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to conduct a lottery drawing for this year’s marathon.

Ten lucky applications will be drawn at 4 p.m. to win the opportunity to participate in one of America’s five finest marathons, the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C.

Because registration was closed to the general public May 1, this is an excellent opportunity to have an additional chance to participate in this prestigious event.

## Flamingo Motors



**Mir**  
**Remarks****How did you spend your long weekend?**

**"I saw The Mummy Returns, cooked out at my house, watched the Cubs game and went to a Ben Harper concert."**

Gunnery Sgt. Matthew Sosnoski  
MALS-16  
avionic NCOIC of work center 690



**"I went fishing at Lake Sutherland, spent time with my family and relaxed."**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Hogan  
Branch Medical Clinic  
EMS coordinator



**"I went to a barbecue last weekend."**

Lance Cpl. Maktheng Bun  
MAG-16  
administration clerk

**Professionalism extends beyond the workplace**

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

*Commentary*

**M**arines stand out in the civilian community. Be it our haircuts, our mannerisms or our style of dress – there is something that sets us apart. We're special, because we expect more of our self and our fellow Marines.

In dealing with the civilian community at large, we must remember our standards. We must adhere to our own expectations, because we are the only examples of Marine Corps professionalism many civilians ever see.

It is that example that sticks in the minds of potential employers for Marines pursuing careers after the Marine Corps. Those corporate-minded individuals who fuel America's economy and drive the workforce will either welcome us with open arms or shun us based on past experiences with Marines.

**"In dealing with the civilian community at large, we must remember our standards. We must adhere to our own expectations, because we are the only examples of Marine Corps professionalism many civilians ever see."**

Cpl. Rob Henderson

Take this example:

Recently, I attended a baseball game to cover the San Diego Padres and "Recruit Sunday." When I went to pick up my media pass at Customer Service, I was greeted with angry stares and non-helpful attitudes from the individuals behind the counter. After several minutes of talking with these ladies – these civilian professionals – I found out why they treated me with such distaste. Another Marine had been verbally abusive and downright nasty in the pursuit of tickets to an earlier Padres game.

Wow! I felt like I was about two feet tall. Here I was covering my beat in the most pro-

fessional manner I could and I was being judged on another Marine's behavior. Talk about disappointment. I was disappointed in my fellow Marine who so haphazardly threw away a few months of my dealings with the San Diego Padres Baseball Club. I was embarrassed for myself, but more so, I was embarrassed for that Marine.

Many Marines for many years have been conducting themselves in a highly professional manner to leave this legacy for us. Countless hours have been devoted to the civilian community's idea of Marines by way of community service, tours and volunteerism.

Your one tantrum, rude comment, use of inappropriate language or "un-Marine" display of emotions can result in strained community relations.

It is important to keep the San Diego community on our side – after all, you can't stay on base forever.

**Barracks Marines need to work together at home**

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

*Commentary*

**A**board this air station and in the barracks we are all on the same side. All our utilities bear the words "U.S. Marines" or "U.S. Navy." Since all servicemembers in the barracks are in the same situation, you would think we might try to help each other out instead of hamstringing each other.

I shouldn't have to sit in the laundry room with my clothes the entire two hours they are in there just to ensure they are not stolen or left in a wet heap on top of a dryer. We, as servicemembers, defend American interests here and abroad, yet we continue to anger the ones we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with while we fight.

I understand the fact that only a few washers and dryers are in proper working order and many of us have to use them every day. I know that because of this we often have to take other people's clothes out of the washer or dryer to help speed the process along, but don't be disrespectful to someone else's property.

I would never take someone's clothes out of a washer and leave them in a wet heap on top of a dryer. I would never take damp clothes out of a dryer until they were completely dry just so I could put my own clothes in. It takes teamwork to get everyone's laundry done, let's try to work together.

On the other hand, I have had several articles of clothing mysteriously disappear from barracks washers and dryers. I understand when I put two socks into the dryer one finds its way into another dimension. However, I've had football jerseys, blue jeans, slacks, shirts and various uniforms swallowed into the abyss that is the barracks laundry room.

I'm not saying that there are thieves among us, but an alarming amount of my

clothing is being "misplaced." I know it is my responsibility to keep an eye on my clothing while it is in this abyss, but I believe if we all lived up to the standards of the uniforms we wear to work every day there wouldn't be any problems. Likewise, if we all kept an eye out for evildoers while we were in the laundry room we could all work together to make it a "not-so-scary" place to bring garments.

I challenge all barracks personnel to follow my laundry routine outlined below. Perhaps if we are all on the same page there will be more happy faces in the abyss.

If clothes are finished washing, but are still in the washer, find an empty working dryer before removing them. Then take out all the clothes and start the dryer. Then you can start your load in the washer. Approximately 45 minutes later check your clothes in the washer and find an empty dryer. If you can't find an empty dryer, find one that has completely dry clothes in it. Take the clothes out, put your clothes in and fold the other person's clothes for them.

Doing these simple things will help us all get our clothes clean, not to mention get along better in the barracks.



**How many times have you found your laundry in a wet heap on top of a dryer in the barracks laundry room? Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley**

**NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

Do you have news? Did you take a newsworthy photo? Would you like to see your byline in the Flight Jacket? The newspaper staff encourages Marines to submit commentaries, editorials letters to the editor or other articles or photographs. Story submissions can be sent by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail [ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil).



# Orange Coast Harley group visits station

By Sgt. W.A. Napper

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Like a scene from a biker movies, approximately 30 Harley Davidson motorcycles pulled into the visitor’s center parking lot here May 19.

After the ear-deafening roar of their engines died, nearly 50 leather-clad rough-riding road warriors stretched their legs and turned their attention to two Marines who were waiting patiently nearby.

If there was any anxiety in the air, it was lost when the bikers immediately turned and shook hands with their new Marine friends. These riders weren’t like the motorcycle enthusiasts portrayed in the movies. These were members of the Orange Coast Harley Owners Group, and they were aboard the air station to learn more about the men and women who serve their country. They were scheduled to take a windshield tour with stops at the military working dogs and the Flying Leatherneck Museum.

According to Jack Douglas, Orange Coast Harley Owners Group activities officer, this trip was different than others the club normally makes.

“It’s an opportunity for people to ride and see something that they might not otherwise see,” he said. “The trip to Miramar was not a typical ride for us.”

The group usually goes on two or three rides each month, and it’s not uncommon for them to ride as much as 300 miles



**Harley Davidson motorcycles fill the parking lot at the visitor’s center here. The bikes belong to members of the local Orange Coast Harley Owners Group, which visited the air station May 19 as guests of the commanding general’s tour program. While aboard the air station they visited the flight line, mueseem and saw a K-9 demonstration.** Photo by Sgt. W. A. Napper Jr.

during a trip. Douglas said the group only rode 70 miles from their meeting point to the air station.

The first stop on the station tour was at the kennels of the military working dogs. Here the bikers were given a first-hand look at how the Provost Marshal’s Office dog handlers keep the peace with their four-legged partners. A demonstration of the dogs’ obedience to both verbal and nonverbal commands received applause from the group. After that, the group got back on their busses for a trip to the flight line, where they saw several F/A-18 Hornets and KC-130 Hercules aircraft.

The tour ended at the museum, where they got a close-up look at the history of Marine aviation. Although the tour didn’t have anything to do with motorcycles, Douglas said the group really enjoyed themselves.

“I think everyone had a wonderful time,” he said. “It certainly exceeded my expectations. The tour was very informative, and I thought the whole thing was very well thought out.”

Douglas said he hoped the group, which has more than 350 members, would certainly come back again.

“The Orange Coast HOG chapter is like the Marine Corps in certain aspects,” he said. “The Marines are bound together by their sense of duty and honor and we’re all bound together by our love for the motorcycle.”

With 1,300 chapters worldwide, the Harley Owners Group is a non-profit organization whose members are volunteers.

Those interested in joining the organization must have a national “HOG” membership and pay the local dues. For more information, call (714) 838-7799.



# Death Rattlers watch over Southern Iraq



(above) On the flight deck of USS Constellation, a team of Marines from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 preps an F/A-18 Hornet for an Operation Southern Watch mission in the hostile skies of Iraq. VMFA-323 is on a Western Pacific deployment with the Constellation Battle Group until its return Sept. 15. (bottom left) Lance Corporal Andriele Stodden, aviation ordnance technician with VMFA-323, preps an F/A-18 Hornet to be loaded with live ordnance for a mission in support of Operation Southern Watch. VMFA-323 is deployed aboard USS Constellation in the Persian Gulf. (bottom right) Private first class John Carmack, a plane captain with VMFA-323, signals the pilot to “wipeout,” a procedure where the pilot rotates the stick 360 degrees and pumps the pedals to check the flaps, ailerons and rudders as part of a preflight inspection. This inspection is done before all flights both on and off ships. The plane is being readied to be launched off the USS Constellation to patrol Iraqi skies for Operation Southern Watch May 3. Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Rushing



Advance Checking



# Miramar Marines take day off ‘just for the health of it’

By Sgt. A.C. Strong

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Nearly 3,000 Marines, family members and civilians gathered for the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Health Fair 2001, May 24.

Major General Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing 7, kicked off the "101 Days of Summer" by leading a run, then encouraging Miramar personnel to take the opportunity to visit the air station's health fair.

A combined effort of Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit program, active-duty Marines and air station civilians, all of which began making plans for this year's fair early last year.

The event was an unprecedented success, according to Anne Panattoni, Semper Fit director. "When we planned it, we didn't expect this kind of turn out. However, when the general offered his support, it really helped," she said.

Visitors were offered a large variety of activities to try out or cheer. From rock-wall climbing which tested acumen and skill to the brute strength contest of the tug of war, to the muscle challenge and push-up contest on center stage.

"We are thrilled with the turnout," said Panattoni. "We even had a large amount of interest in the bone marrow donation sign-ups coordinated by Branch Medical Clinic personnel.

Panattoni, along with fitness director Lynn Sanchez, were quick to share credit for the success of the event with the volunteer staff.

Volunteers such as Staff Sgt. James Graham from the Miramar chow hall were there to share knowledge and have a little fun doing it. "We're just trying to show

Marines and civilians alike that we have a healthy choice in the mess hall."

Healthy choices such as spinach lasagna and ground turkey chili kept the event visitors coming back for more.

Overall, the favorite event seemed to be the tug of war. Twelve teams were whittled away to the top two, who battled it out in a best two out of three competition late in the day.

Coincidentally, both top teams were Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 Marines. MALS-11 maintenance wore MALS-11 (GSE) down in a fight of strength and skill.

Onlookers cheered rowdily, egging on the testosterone-charged event.

"The success of the tug of war is all due to Captain Bahannon," said Panattoni. "We buy the trophies and he does all the rest."

Captain Donald L. Bohannon, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing weather officer sent out stationwide e-mails weeks in advance, soliciting teams for the tug of war.

Other booths included massages, snack booths, the blood mobile, the station library and a sports and aquatics booth with information, sign-up sheets and schedules for the many happenings on station this summer, and many others.

Attendees did not leave empty-handed. Most who came left with goody bags stuffed with giveaways from the variety of booths.

Considered a success by all, event coordinators are hoping that next year's event is just as successful and have already begun the planning process.

For more information about Semper Fit, the "101 Days of Summer," or league and intramural sports, call Lynn Sanchez at 577-4129.



Staff Sergeant James Graham, food service specialist, scoops up some lasagna for free samples at the health fair May 24 behind the station gym. Photo by Sgt. A. C. Strong



With popping veins, Kenneth Hamlin, MWSS-373, pulls his weight during the tug of war competition at the Health Fair May 24. Photo by Sgt. A. C. Strong



Lisa Griswald, fitness instructor, leads Health Fair attendees in the muscle challenge in the center arena. Photo by Sgt. A. C. Strong

Miramar FCU



# Marine Corps in search of new flight engineers



Master Sergeant Kevin A. Powell rides between the captain and copilot as a flight engineer in the cockpit of a KC-130. Right now the Corps is in need of corporals and sergeants, who have a desire to travel and have more responsibility, to become flight engineers. *Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Rushing*

By 1st Lt. Joshua Rushing

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Two of the biggest reasons people join the Marine Corps are that they crave responsibility and want to travel.

No enlisted military occupational

specialty offers more responsibility and opportunity to travel than being a flight engineer on a KC-130, says Master Sgt. Terrence M. O'Neill as he sits with Master Sgt. Kevin A. Powell at the Shorebird, an open-air, oceanfront Waikiki grill.

With the gentle sound of waves washing up on the soft sands of the

Hawaiian beach in the background, O'Neill, a flight engineer and maintenance control chief at Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, explains that it's a great lifestyle – and it's hard not to believe him.

However, there is no MOS in the Corps that needs qualified candidates so desperately.

"Right now in the Marine Corps (engineers) are at 60 percent manning levels with 26 [about one third] retiring in the next two years," says Lt. Col. Steve W. Busby, commanding officer, VMGR-352.

The flight engineer MOS, 6242, is a non-entry-level opportunity that is open to corporals and sergeants to make a lateral move into, and according to O'Neill, there are countless reasons for them to.

First is the need of the Marine Corps. "Everyday we don't put our finger in the dike lets more water in," he says. "It's going to have a major impact on the Corps if we don't do something about it soon."

Although the squadron rates 24 flight engineers, it is getting the job done with only 14.

When you consider training commitments, leave and other taskers and responsibilities that pull all Marines to the winds, the squadron often ends up with only six engineers to support 10 "up" aircraft.

"That's when things get kind of tight," says Powell, also a flight engineer with 352 and the squadron assistant maintenance control chief.

Powell and O'Neill have known each other and flown together for the better part of 16 years. The KC-130 community is like a small town where it's hard not to know everyone. "I know every gunny and above in our field," says O'Neill with Powell nodding his head in agreement next to him.

The next good reason for a Marine to move into the field is the incredible amount of responsibility a flight engineer has.

It's the closest an enlisted Marine can get to being a pilot. "I sit 12 inches from the pilot."

In a KC-130 cockpit the flight engineer

sits in between the pilot and copilot and back about a foot. He is responsible for all the aircraft's systems, such as the fuel, hydraulics and near countless other vital systems that make the '130 one of the safest planes in the world.

"With a good flight engineer, all a pilot has to do is fly, everything else is taken care of," says O'Neill.

"The flight engineer knows the aircraft inside and out. He is a valued crewmember. He sits in the center for a reason," says Busby, who is not only the commanding officer but also a KC-130 pilot with more than a dozen years experience. "The engineer is the reason we can takeoff and fly for 10 days on the road, if something happens he can fix it."

"Everyday is different, everyday a new challenge. I love that," says Powell. "You could be anywhere in the world and if something goes down on that aircraft then you're the go-to guy. You're going to get it taken care of and get that plane home."

The third good reason to be a flight engineer is the amazing opportunity to travel.

"We fly some hard hours but we also have some nice down days," says O'Neill soaking up the view of sunbathers, aquamarine waters and a cloud-brushed sky.

In the last week and a half Powell and he have visited the Philippines, Thailand, Bahrain, Kuwait, Italy and Spain – with paid lodging, transportation and per diem.

## Evolution

### If you're interested...

You need a general technical score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery of at least 110 and must be a corporal or sergeant – preferably in an aviation maintenance MOS – to apply for the flight engineer field.

Call Master Sgts. O'Neill or Powell at 577-8267 or 577-8258. They can take interested, qualified candidates on incentive flights to see what a flight engineer does and to get an idea of the community.



## Following the Friars

“The team of the Navy and Marine Corps”

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Shoot for the stars – if you fall short, you may at least hit the moon. The Friars fought there way into first place this week, but it was a short-lived triumph.

May 23, the Padres faced the Houston Astros at Enron Field in Houston. In what would be their fifth straight victory, the Friars dealt the Stars a 7-6 loss in a nail-biting ninth inning. Padres outfielder Mark Kotsay hit safely four times, including an RBI single with two outs in the top of the ninth to put the Friars ahead of the Astros. Friars Pitcher Trevor Hoffman earned his ninth save by keeping the Astros’ bats silent during the bottom of the ninth.

The Padres were back at Qualcomm May 24 to face the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Friars extended their streak to six wins as they beat the Snakes 3-1. Friars pitcher Wascar Serrano pitched seven strong innings surrendering one run, six hits, three walks and four strikeouts. Padres catcher Ben Davis singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning.

The streak was snapped May 25 as the Diamondbacks slithered their way to a 7-1 victory. The Padres defense was lacking in the third inning as the Snakes were able to capitalize on three errors to take a 6-0 lead. Through nine innings, the Friars committed five errors, one shy of the season high. Friars pitcher Bobby Jones did his best to quell the uprising allowing seven runs – only one earned – and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Saturday, the ‘Backs starting pitcher, Curt Schilling, waged an almost perfect battle to beat the Padres 3-1. Schilling, perfect through seven innings, blew his opportunity to pitch a no-hitter when Padres catcher Ben Davis pushed a bunt past Schilling. Davis easily beat second baseman Jay Bell’s throw to end up safe on first. Unfortunately, the Padres weren’t able to capitalize and Schilling won the night.

In the final game between the ‘Backs and Friars Sunday, the Snakes came out on top 6-4. Padres reliever Trevor Hoffman is usually flawless, but everyone has an off day. After taking over in the ninth with a 4-2 lead, Hoffman surrendered two two-run homers to give the ‘Backs the victory. It was only the second blown save in 12 opportunities for baseball’s all-time leader in save percentage. Hoffman has blown only 13 of 159 save chances since 1998.

After a day of rest for the Friars, the Houston Astros flew in to face the Padres Tuesday. The Friars squeaked past the Stars 5-4 to hand the Astros their eighth straight loss. Padres first baseman Ryan Klesko and outfielder Mark Kotsay hit back-to-back homers in the sixth. Klesko’s smash sailed 409 feet to land in the center field bleachers; it was his thirteenth of the season. Kotsay had two hits on the night including the homer and made a jumping snag in the fifth to rob the Astros of a homer off Richard Hidalgo.

Next week, the Friars will close the series with Houston, head to Arizona to face the Snakes, and start a series with the San Francisco Giants in San Francisco. The leader boards change with each passing day, and with the Friars only 2 1/2 games out, this coming week will prove to be a pivotal one. Go Padres.



In a rare occurrence, Padres outfielder Rickey Henderson is picked off first base during a game with the Arizona Diamondbacks Sunday. The Diamondbacks won the game 6-4 when Padres pitcher Trevor Hoffman gave up two two-run homers in the ninth inning. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

Pacific Century Homes



### Mission Bay High School needs volunteers

Mission Bay High School in Pacific Beach needs hands-on help to decorate the gym and surrounding areas of the school, serve as security guards and chaperones, and clean-up personnel for their Graduation Night celebration.

Contact Casey Sprague at 274-2885 or via e-mail at [CASEYSPRAG@AOL.COM](mailto:CASEYSPRAG@AOL.COM).

### Single Marine Program

The Single Marine Program is holding elections for executive council Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Area 51, Building 5509.

For more information contact Heather Fratangelo, SMP coordinator, 577-6283.

### Habits of Successful Families

Marine Corps Community Services Family Team Building is offering a free seminar June 7 and 8.

More information is available on the MCCS Web site at: [www.mccsmiramar.com/7habits.htm](http://www.mccsmiramar.com/7habits.htm).

### Mira Mesa Pop Warner cheerleading seeks volunteer coaches

Drag out all those all cheers you knew in high school and encourage community youth activities. No experience is necessary.

For details call Evelyn Pine at (858) 271-7392.

### NNOA 29th Annual Conference

The Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., chapter of the National Naval Officers Association will hold its 29th Annual Conference July 16-20 at the Marine Corps Research Center, Building 2040, MCB Quantico.

For more information visit the NNOA Web site at: [www.NNOA.org](http://www.NNOA.org).

### Playmorning at the Rec Center

Pre-schoolers of all ages are invited to attend Playmorning at the Admiral Baker Recreation Center every third Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

For information and directions call the Marine New Parent Support Program (619) 524-0805.

### First Friends

Marine New Parents Support Program offers First Friends – a group for moms with babies one to six months old.

The group meets at Mills Park on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 3 to

3:50 p.m.

For details call the Marine New Parents Support Program at 577-9812.

### Main (East) Gate Closure

Due to renovation, the Main Gate will be closed periodically between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. until Monday. Lane closures and traffic delays should be expected while construction work is underway.

### Education Center offers SAT, ACT

The Education Center is administering the Scholastic Aptitude Test on the first and third Tuesdays during June at 7:30 a.m. at the center.

Reservations are not required. However, personnel who have not reserved their tests will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Academic Collegiate Test is administered the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

For more information call Charles D. Banks at 577-1895.

### Water workout

Aqua-Robics will be offered through Labor Day at the O' Club Pool. Classes are open to all. Session times are 5 to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For details call 577-4129.

### Miramar Fire Dept. announces Charity Golf Tournament

The Miramar Fire Department holds the Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament today. Carlton Oaks Country Club in Santee will hold the event that benefits the San Diego Burn Institute.

For more information call Mark Weimann at 577-6137.

### Summer Concert Series 2001

Join us for free outdoor summer concerts in June, July and August. "Hot Salsa Night" is June 21, from 6 to 8 p.m.

For more information call 577-6365.

### Referees needed

San Diego County Football Officials Association Inc. will hold an open house/get acquainted meeting at 6:30 p.m., June 27.

The event will take place at the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) headquarters.

Anyone interested in becoming a football referee can attend and ask questions.

For more information call Tom Ables at

## Free movies from MCCS

<p><b>Today</b></p> <p><b>Someone Like You</b> (PG-13) 4:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Josie and the Pussycats</b> (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Joe Dirt</b> (PG-13) 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b></p> <p><b>Pokemon 3</b> (G) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Crocodile Dundee in L.A.</b> (PG) 8:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p><b>Pokemon 3</b> (G) 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Enemy at the Gates</b> (R) 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>One Night at McCool's</b> (R) 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p><b>Evolution (Special Screening)</b> (PG-13) 7 p.m.</p>
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The station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies are free for everyone. For movie synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143.

677-1129 or 270-7683 or Charles Washington at (760) 941-1225.

### Welcome aboard brief changes to Wednesdays

The Commanding General's Welcome Aboard Brief at the Joint Reception Center, Building 2258, has changed to the first and third Wednesday of each month instead of Monday. The brief will be from 7:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday and June 20. For details call 577-1783 or 577-9123.

### ATTENTION COMMANDERS

*The Flight Jacket staff encourages anyone with a command message to submit stories or even photographs. Send submissions by mail to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box 452013, San Diego, CA 92145; by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ Editor; or by e-mail to [ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil).*

**Volunteers are needed to work security for the 2001 Special Olympics Greater Games June 8-10 at San Diego State University. This is a great opportunity to assist special Olympic athletes in having a safe and enjoyable weekend competing in different sporting events. For more information call Staff Sgt. Kenneth P. Jackman at (619) 524-4134 or the Special Olympics office at (619) 583-6100.**



### There she blows

A geyser of water sprays more than 30 feet in the air at the corner just outside the north gate May 30. Any interesting photos that you capture that have anything to do with the Miramar community can be submitted to the Flight Jacket at the Public Affairs Office, Building 6250, or digital images (preferably 300 DPI) can be e-mailed to [ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil](mailto:ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil) Photo by Master Sgt. Dwaine Roberts

### Sandwich Afare



## Disability,

continued from page 1

cifically discussing disability research. The presentation will emphasize the local services available to San Diego residents. Up to 10 area organizations will be represented, including San Diego Regional Center, Team of Advocates for Special Kids, Special Care, Learning Disabilities Association, YMCA, California Children Services, and San Diego Parks and Recreation.

Each group will have different information available. However, all will provide valuable knowledge on how to incorporate the special needs of any family member into daily life. The displays will be accessible and open during the library's regular hours of operation.

This presentation provides the perfect arrangement for you to learn more about special family needs on your own time and at your own pace. It's also an ideal opportunity to talk to experts one-on-one, who can answer questions and concerns that you might have about known or suspected disabilities.

For more information, call Family Member Program at 577-4098, or the library at 577-1261. Information is also on the MCCS Web site, [www.mccsmiramar.com](http://www.mccsmiramar.com).

## Provider,

continued from page 2

46,000 pounds of cargo. The flights operated as a lifeline for the ship while afloat and enabled the squadron to show the ship's capabilities.

"Sea-based logistics is a new concept the Marine Corps is going toward and this really demonstrated it at its best. We proved that, with a lifeline, we could operate indefinitely, repairing parts and providing aviation-supply support as well," said Wiest.

In addition to their normal duties, the Marines also participated in force-protection training.

"We defended the ship afloat and in port as we would in a real-world contingency. We trained about 200 Marines on interior guard procedures, weapons familiarity with the M-16, .50-caliber machine gun, grenade launcher and the shotgun. That was an added plus for the exercise," said Wiest.

All total, Pacific Provider '21 found 325 Marines and Sailors aboard the ship, most of which, 172, were assigned to MALS-16. Other participating units, however, included MALS-13, Yuma, Ariz., MALS-39, Camp Pendleton, Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Miramar, MWSS-374, Twentynine Palms, MALS Element, Kaneohe Bay, Ha-

waii, Mobile Calibration Complex, Miramar, and the 1st Force Service Support Group (Port Operations Group), Camp Pendleton.

Working together, they discovered that in the future, it may be necessary to have a small cargo vessel stationed aboard the ship that in the event of bad weather could be lowered into the water and used as a transportation vessel for supplies.

Another weather-based discovery found the need for an air-navigational aid aboard the ship to assist pilots in landing during foggy weather, said Wiest.

At the completion of this exercise, plans are to berth the Curtiss in San Diego instead of its current location at Port Huaneme. This will give the squadrons not

only a new challenge of working from a new location, but will also enable them a better chance for familiarization training in the future.

"I think all the units that participated should be proud of what they accomplished," said Wiest. "The T-AVB is a national asset that provides a great capability that will be used if we go to war and they did it right."

The families of everyone involved in the deployment provided additional support for the deployment.

"Most of the Marines I had out there for up to four weeks and I appreciate the support they received from their families while they were away. They are certainly a large part of keeping their morale up," said Wiest.



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**Check the *Flight Jacket* archives online**

**[www.miramar.usmc.mil/flight.htm](http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/flight.htm)**

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